

political provinces extending from Jerusalem
to China;
and when in the fourteenth century it was
not only the
largest communion in Christendom, but
outnumbered
the whole of the rest of Christendom, east
and west,
Eoman, Greek, and other churches put
together. It is
truly a marvel not only that Baghdad, Edessa,
and Nisibis
possessed Nestorian schools of divinity and
philosophy,
but that Christian colleges, seminaries, and
theological
schools flourished in Samarcand,^t Bokhara,
and Khiva!
How this huge church melted away like
snow, and how
the tide of Christianity ebbed, leaving as a
relic on its
high-water mark within the Chinese
frontier a stone
tablet inscribed with the Nestorian creed,
and how
Taimurlane pursued the unfortunate
Christian remnant
with such fury that the *Oatholicos* himself
with a fugitive
band was forced to fly into these mountains,
are matters
of most singular historic interest. Most
fascinating
indeed is it to be here. Each day seems
but an hour,
so absorbing are the interests, so deep the
pathos, so
vivid the tableaux, so unique the life in
this hamlet
of Kochanes, on its fair green alp at a
height of 6000
feet, among these wild mountains of
Kurdistan, musical
with the sound of torrents fed by fifty snow-
drifts, dash-
ing down, to join " the Pison, the river of
Eden " (as the
Patriarch calls the Zab), on its way to the
classic Tigris.

The afternoon I arrived, Sulti, Marta,
Asiat, and
several other women courteously visited me,

and the next
day I returned their visits in their simple
pleasant
houses. These formalities over, I have enjoyed
complete
liberty, and have acquainted myself with the
whole of
Kochanes, and with many of the people and
their interests,
and have had small gatherings of men in
my room each
evening, *Qasha*, -- or Mr. Browne
interpreting their
tales of strife or wrong.

" Fear is on every side," the fear of a
people practically